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United States Senate

December 9, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

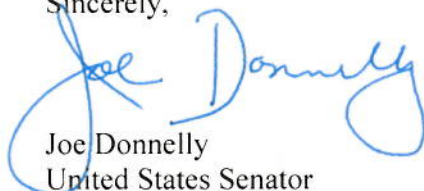
Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Ports of Indiana operate three ports, one of which, Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor, is located on Lake Michigan in northwest Indiana. Burns Harbor is 18 nautical miles from Chicago and provides ocean access to the Midwest on two of the largest inland waterways in the world. It handles international ships via the St. Lawrence Seaway, connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, and barge access to 38 states and the Gulf of Mexico through the Inland Waterways System. Burns Harbor handled approximately 2.8 million tons of cargo in 2015, and moved its highest volume of freight over the last two years of its 46 year history due to increasing global demand for grains, salt, steel, minerals and other products. With a shipping partnership agreement between Indiana and Quebec, Canada, the Port is poised for strong growth, however, it is reaching its throughput capacity. For this reason, I support the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor application for funding through the FY2017 FASTLANE program.

The Port does not have a bulk transload facility with rail storage and FASTLANE funding will support its construction. In addition, funding will allow the Port to complete dock and rail improvements at existing bulk handling facilities and construct a new truck marshalling yard to facilitate the safe integration of trucks in the intermodal transfer of cargo process. The Port estimates that the project will increase throughput capacity by 50 percent and reduce congestion on rail- and roadways while creating additional job opportunities throughout the supply chain.

In light of the multiple benefits this project will bring to Indiana and the region, I respectfully request that you give the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor application for FASTLANE funding full and fair consideration, in a manner consistent with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being informed when a decision is announced. Questions and announcements can be directed to my Grants Director Marianne Black, at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226.5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator